QUARTERLY PERISCOPE.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

PHYSIOLOGY.

1. *Preternatural Lactation.*—The following interesting case of preternatural lactation has been communicated to the Medico-Chirurgical Review, (July, 1832,) by Dr. Kennedy.—"Judith Waterford lives in the village of Thringston, on the Forest, between Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Loughborough, Leicestershire. At this time, (December, 1831,) she is in her eighty-first year, and though infirm, her constitution has singularly retarded the advances of old age.

"Through life, this woman has been the active and laborious inmate of a peasant's cottage; her person is short and well-proportioned; at one time she weighed about fourteen stone; her temperament is the neuro-sanguineous, distinctly marked. The peculiar circumstances of her history being extensively known in the district where she resides, she has been visited by many clerical, medical, and other curious inquirers.

"J. W. had two husbands. Previously to her first marriage, her menstrual secretion appeared at regular periods; it continued nine days usually, and was very profuse, but preceded and accompanied with little pain or disturbance of the system. After this went, it returned only nine times, at distant and irregular intervals; and on each of these occasions it was abundant, without causing any perceptible diminution of her milk.

"J. W. was first married in 1777; her first child was born in May, 1778; and from that period till May, 1825, her lacteous secretion never in the least subsided. Besides giving her breast freely and frequently to the young ones of her neighbours, she suckled six children of her own by her first husband, and eight nurselings; she had two miscarriages. Her first confinement was followed by an excessive uterine discharge, which continued three weeks and induced considerable debility. No infant, however vigorous, was ever nearly able to use her supply of milk; and, in consequence, she often had her "breasts drawn" to the amount of two quarts in a day; her belief is, that, in general, she could have suckled four lively children at the same time. Many attempts were made, even under medical direction, to suspend the secretion of her milk; but they all utterly failed. Her breasts often became tense and painful; and, for the removal of this state, she had them well rubbed with butter made from the cream of her own milk; this process was invariably advantageous. Sometimes about a pint of this cream was collected, and the butter it yielded was white, and soft as lard, with a sweet taste. Judy took much food, and seldom had recourse to medicine; it is her boast, indeed, that "she never paid a shilling in her life for doctoring, for the sake of her health;" her bowels generally were torpid, often constipated.

"J. W. was a widow nearly three years, and gave suck to her own and other

children during the whole of that period. She had one still-born child to her second husband. Her breasts even now retain a size quite extraordinary, and the axillary glands are occasionally large. Soon after the disappearance of her milk, in 1825, her health became more variable, her energies gradually failed, and her voice, which still is strong, lost its natural strength. Her actual powers of mind seem to have experienced little change; she continues "heart-whole;" her appetite is considerably impaired; she wishes to eat often, but takes little food at one time; her sleep is disturbed and unrefreshing, and a cough gives her occasional annoyance; her pulse is full, soft, not quick, and resistant. For many months, she has been slightly troubled with those periodical disturbances by which menstruation is preceded.

"Although Judy's milk ceased, for a time, in 1825, it repeatedly appeared in minute quantities during the five subsequent years; but, since the Autumn of 1830, the secretion of this fluid has been constant, and, if encouraged, (she thinks,) would be sufficient to nourish a child; from attempting this, however, she is deterred by the idea, that "it would soon be the end of her."

"December 6th, 1831.—This day, being in the middle of her 81st year, Judy readily filled a small spoon with her milk, by squeezing her left breast frequently with the hand. The milk was rich and sweet, and not different from that yielded by young and healthy mothers.

"Here, then, are the remarkable circumstances of a woman who menstruated during lactation—who suckled children uninterruptedly through the full course of forty-seven years—and who, in her eighty-first year, has a moderate but regular secretion of milk."

2. *Doubling of Images by a single Eye.*—Prevost gives an account of his examination of his own case, in which the right eye especially affected with the defect, and some details of the case of Mr. Babbage, who is similarly affected. In a note, one of the editors of the *Annales de Chim.* (M. Arago, we presume,) states that he labours under a similar defect, but with certain modifications, which he promises to detail. The scope of the above observations seems to connect them with the doubly refracting structure observed in the lenses of animals by Sir David Brewster.*—*Ann. de Chim. Oct.* 1832.

PATHOLOGY.

3. *Aromatic Smell Exhaled from the Surface of the Skin of the Forearm.* Observed by Dr. Speranza.—M. T. R., of sanguine and bilious temperament, robust constitution, ætat. 30, after having worked very hard an entire day, perceived, while he undressed, that there exhaled from the internal surface of his left forearm, near the hand, a sweet odour, of very decided character, somewhat like Peruvian balsam, or the vapour of amber, or benzoin when burned on heated coals. Astonished by this singular circumstance, which he was totally unable to explain, having touched no aromatic substance, he came at once to communicate it to his medical attendant. Dr. Speranza found the odour so powerful that he could not avoid suspecting a trick, and several other persons coïncided in this opinion. The most scrupulous investigation, however, showed at once that there was no deception practised.

Various attempts were made by means of frictions and lotions to dissipate or neutralize the odour, but in vain: the smell only increased the more the arm was rubbed and excited. It was particularly strong in the morning just after the man got up, but it continued without intermission the entire day. It was perceptible at a considerable distance from the arm, and even impregnated sensibly the chamber where he slept. Frictions on other parts of the body did not

* Brewster's Optics, p. 205. Am. Ed.